

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5180

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29683

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MITTERRAND, FRANCOIS), FR, PGOV' PINT, PFOR

SUBJECT: IS THE QUAI WARMING UP ITS TREATMENT OF  
MITTERRAND?

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO SOCIALIST SOURCES' THE GOF  
FOREIGN MINISTRY SEEMS TO BE WILLING TO PUT ITS  
WASHINGTON EMBASSY SQUARELY BEHIND FRANCOIS MITTERRAND'S  
TRIP TO THE U.S. CONTRARY TO ITS PRACTICE ON PREVIOUS  
MITTERRAND TRIPS. THEIR EMBASSY HAS INVITED MITTERRAND  
TO PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL WELL-PUBLICIZED ACTIVITIES  
INCLUDING A LARGE DINNER. PS STAFFERS ATTRIBUTE THE  
CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERE TO QUAI DISTRESS OVER BAD PRESS  
RECEIVED BY FRENCH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW FOR ITS  
HANDLING OF MITTERRAND'S TRIP THERE EARLIER THIS YEAR.  
THEY ARE LESS WILLING TO ADMIT GISCARD'S POLITICAL  
REASONS FOR THE COURTESY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE QUAI'S SUGGESTIONS: THE QUAI -- AND THE FRENCH  
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, WHICH CALLED THE PS DIRECTLY --  
ARE OFFERING THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM FOR MITTERRAND'S  
CONSIDERATION:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24: DINNER AT THE EMBASSY (SIC) WITH  
SEVERAL TOP US COLUMNISTS.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25: 0830 -- BREAKFAST WITH STAFF  
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AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COMMITTEE; 1030 -- 1130 - CALL ON SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN. PS DOES NOT YET KNOW IF AMBASSADOR KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET WOULD GO ALONG ON THIS CALL; 1800 MEETING AT EMBASSY WITH MEMBERS OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE; 2030 DINNER AT KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET'S RESIDENCE. AMBASSADOR SHRIVER WOULD BE THE TOP AMERICAN GUEST.

2. PS REACTION: PS STAFF WILL RECOMMEND TO MITTERRAND THAT HE ACCEPT THE DINNER ON THE 24TH, THAT HE REGRET THE BREAKFAST, THAT HE INSIST ON SEEING SENATOR MCGOVERN ALONE AND THAT HE APPROVE THE OTHER TWO EVENTS. MITTERRAND, WHO RETURNS FROM ITALY NOVEMBER JEN WILL PROBABLY MAKE HIS DECISION OVER THE COMING WEEKEND. THE PS WILL GIVE US MITTERRAND'S FINAL SCHEDULE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17.

3. PS POLITICAL READINGS: THE PS IS INCLINED TO BE SLIGHTLY DISINGENUOUS IN ITS READINGS OF THE QUAI'S REASONS. ONE THEORY HAS IT THAT THE QUAI WAS EMBARRASSED BY PRESS REACTION TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT'S DELIBERATE SNUB OF MITTERRAND AT THE MOSCOW AIRPORT EARLIER THIS YEAR. ANOTHER SUGGESTS THAT MITTERRAND, AS THE LEADER OF THE FRENCH OPPOSITION, IS SOMEHOW ENTITLED TO THESE SYMBOLS OF ACCEPTANCE. WHAT THE PS REFUSES TO SEE IN THE TURNABOUT IS ANY KIND OF POLITICAL MEANING. CONTINUING RUMORS OF A SPLIT BETWEEN THE QUAI AND THE ELYSEE OVER PROPER HANDLING OF MITTERRAND WHEN HE IS ABROAD ARE SOMEHOW EASIER TO DISCUSS AT THE PS THAN ARE ANY THOUGHTS ABOUT POLITICAL ADVANTAGES WHICH GISCARD MIGHT GAIN FROM THIS COURTESY. AND YET, THE POSSIBILITY IS PRESENT: GISCARD IS SENDING A SIGNAL WHICH WILL SCORE POINTS WITH MANY UNCOMMITTED VOTERS, WITH SOME SOCIALISTS, AND WHICH WILL PUT MITTERRAND IN A VERY SUBTLE BIND. SINCE GISCARD HAS BEEN "COURTEOUS" WHEN MITTERRAND IS ABROAD, WILL MITTERRAND CONTINUE THE "RUDENESS" OF REFUSING TO TALK WITH GISCARD? OUR GUESS IS THAT THE PS WILL CONTINUE TO IGNORE THE PROBLEM BY CLAIMING THAT MITTERRAND IS DUE THESE COURTESIES.

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